IRAQ

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Irish Anti-War Movement
Newsletter
Spring 2003

In this Newsletter, the Irish Anti-War Movement debunks the myths surrounding the on-going war on Iraq and explains why it is vital that we continue to build a major peace movement in Ireland.

OCCUPATION NOT LIBERATION

Has the war ended?

The initial phase of the war may be coming to an end but Iraq is a long way from liberation. The regime has been destroyed and few Iraqis will mourn its passing. But what has replaced it? Instead of the Hussein dictatorship, Iraqis now face life under a US-led military occupation and a major human catastrophe. Most of the major urban centres have no electicity, no phones, water, ambulances, or hospitals. Wounded children and adults, some bombed while lying in their beds, are being operated on without anaesthesia. Women are losing babies in childbirth without the benefit of any medical help and while millions continues to be spent on the war, aid agencies are getting only a tiny fraction of the funds they need. Save the Children have accused the US of violating the Geneva Convention by refusing permission to land at Arbil, in Northern Iraq, to an aid plane.

There is still no official estimate of the number of Iraqis killed in this brutal war. Pentagon officials have made it clear they have no intention of providing an official deaths & casualties estmate. But already, estimates are that at least 2,514 civilians were killed during the first three weeks of the war. This figure will not include bodies buried under rubble or families who buried their dead relatives and did not notify local officials. he International Red Cross have said that most hospitals are too busy to keep track of the dead.

3.5m refugeeshave been created and tens of thousands are now homeless. 1.5m people in Southern Iraq are without water and 1.26m children face starvation in the coming weeks. With the coming summer heat and deteriorating water & electricity supplies there is an increasingly high risk of epidemic disease. And what was this death and destruction in aid of?

Throughout the war, not a trace of weapons of mass destruction were found and Saddam Hussein is still at large, remaining a shadowy unfinished threat which the US State Department can pull out time and again to justify military intervention elsewhere. Far from a war of liberation, the resources of Iraq are now being parcelled off to US-based multinationals. Nor war this a war for democracy. The new leaders of Iraq are close associates of Bush's administration. The tens of thousands of Iraqis demonstrating for the right to elect their own government are being shot at and killed by occupyng forces.

This illegal and immoral war, has been supported throughout by the Irish Government. The Irish Anti-War Movement is campaigning against the occupation of Iraq, for an end to the use of Shannon Airport by the US military and an end to our government's support for the 'war on terrorism'. This factsheet has been produced to expose the real motives behind war on Iraq and to appeal to peace activists across Ireland to continue to build the anti-war movement.

JOIN WITH US & HELP US BUILD A MOVEMENT FOR GLOBAL PEACE & JUSTICE

Contact the Irish Anti-War Movement at: 087 6329511 / 087 7955013 info@irishantiwar.org www.irishantiwar.org P.O. Box 9260, Dublin 1

Persons taking no active part in the hostilities ...
shall in all circumstances be treated humanely
Geneva Convention

SHOCK & AWE
WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

× During the first 12 days alone, 8,700 tonnes of bombs were dropped on the people of Iraq

× 12 year old Ali Ismail Abbas lost both his arms, received 60% burns and was orphaned in a missile attack

× 15 people killed in Fallujah by US forces while demonstrating to demand the reopening of a local school

× 15 people killed at an anti-occupation rally in Mosul on April 15th after US troops fired at demonstrators

× 80 men, women & children rocketed to death in the village of Furat early in the war

× More than 70 civilians killed at the bombing of 2 separate market places. Shards from the fuselage of a missile dropped of the Shu'ala market identify the manufacturers as Raytheon (Raytheon has an arms plant in Derry)

× Razaq Al Kazem Al Khafaji lost 15 members (including six children) of his family as his car was bombed by coalition helicopters while fleeing Haidariya towards Babylon

× At least 14 journalists killed. Palestine Hotel bombed, al-Jazeera & Abu Dhabi television stations bombed

× 2 people killed when Rutbah children's hospital bombed on 26th March

× 8 killed during bombing of Red Crescent Maternity Hospital, Baghdad on April 2nd

BUSH & BLAIR ARE WAR CRIMINALS

THE RAPE OF MESOPOTAMIA

Even their ancient heritage has been stolen from the Iraqi people. Long before any looting had taken place the American Council for Cultural Policy met with US State Department officials to push for a new law facilitating the export of antiquities. Since the war began, more than 50,000 ancient artefacts found in the Tigris-Euphrates basin have been stolen from the National Museum.

The 1907 *Hague Convention* and the 1949 *Geneva Convention* both state that when an occupying power takes over another country's territory, it automatically becomes responsible for the protection of its civilians, their property and institutions the occupying forces did nothing to protect Iraqi hospitals and museums from looting. While oil wells were heavily and consistently guarded they turned their backs on the pillage of ancient history. Looted museums, burning libraries, devastated hospitals, destroyed families in grief and shock - and an occupying army that stood by while this was allowed to happen. The needs of the people of Iraq have been brutally ignored.

FACTFILE 1:
CORPORATIONS MAKE A KILLING
THE PRIVATISATION OF IRAQ

'A people starved and sickened by sanctions, then pulverised by war, will emerge from this latest trauma to find that their country has been sold out from under them'
Naomi Klein

BECHTEL

Just won the $680m contract for the reconstruction of the infrastructure of Iraq (rebuilding electricity supply, water & sewage systems etc). The Board of Bechtel includes US Security of State, George Schultz (who's also Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq) and Jack Sheehan (a retired general who sites on the Pentagon advisory Defence Policy Board).

K.B.R.

Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), the construction side of Halliburton, recently won the $7bn contract to fight oil well fires in Iraq. US Vice-President Dick Cheney is a former Halliburton CEO still receiving an annual $1m pay-off.

STEVEDORING SERVICES

The Stevedoring Services of America has won the $4.8m contract to run Iraq's seaports. Known for its union-busting activities its president, John Hemingway, is a major Republican Party donor.

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES GROUP

The Washington-based group has won the $70m contract to establish the humanitarian aid programme in Iraq. Four of IRG's vice-presidents have all held senior posts with USAid (US Agency for International Development) which awards the contracts.

LUCENT/QUALCOMM

California Congressman Daniel Issa has introduced a bill that would require the Defence Department to build a CDMA cell-phone system in postwar Iraq to benefit the likes of Lucent Technologies & Qualcomm - a deal worth around $1bn. Pentagon under-secretary Douglas Feith has shares worth $500,000 in Qualcomm.

ROBERT REILLY

Just got the contract to run 'Radio Free Iraq' and likely to also win the rights to Iraqi tv and newspapers. Reilly is a close friend of Ahmed Chalabi and is heavily involved in the plans for a new $62m satellite Middle Eastern tv station.

DYNCORP

Iraq will be policed by a hired mob accused of wide ranging human rights abuses, including the selling of a 12-yr old girl into prostitution in Bosnia. DynCorp is a US military contractor and major Republican Party donor.

FACTFILE 2:
THE NEW RULERS OF IRAQ

'The worst case scenario would be to put in charge of the reconstruction someone from the US or UK linked to arms or oil industries'
Phil Bloomer - Oxfam

JAY GARNER

Iraq's new leader is a personal friend of Ariel Sharon's. With responsibilities for the Office of Reconstrution & Humanitarian Assistance his team will take over all 23 of Iraq's government ministries. As President of SY Coleman Technologies (a missiles systems contractor), Garner is a major cog in the US military/industrial complex and has close links with the hawks of the Republican Right (Rumsfeld, Cheney, Wolfowitz & Perle). In 1999, his company won a Star Wars contract worth up to $365m. Garner helped oversee the development of the Israeli Arrow missiles system and is now commercially involved in the US Patriot Missile system. Garner is vehemently opposed to a Palestinian state.

AHMED CHALABI

Founder of the London-based Iraqi National Congress, Ahmed Chalabi has not been in Iraq since 1948 and has no support amongst ordinary Iraqis. He's tipped to be Finance Minister in post-war Iraq, curious since his own bank, Petra Bank, collapsed in 1989 amid allegations of financial impropriety by Chalabi, he has been convicted in absentia of embezzlement and fraud and has even ripped off the CIA (2001 US audit discovered irregularities in the INC's use of money). Nice choice!

ZALMAY KHALILZAD

Afghanistan-born Khalilzad was appointed Bush's special envoy to Afghanistan in 2001 and is now special envoy to the Iraqi opposition. A consultant with the company Unocal and a founder member of the Project for the New American Century.

MICHAEL MOBBS

Pentagon lawyer, Michael Mobbs has advocated the indefinate imprisonment of US citizens arrests on charges of 'terrorism'. He will be in charge of 11 Iraqi ministries. Previously he has created the legal framework for Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (built by Bechtel) and served on the US arms 'Control' Agency. Mobbs is a close friend of Richard Perle.

PHILIP E CARROLL

Former CEO of Shell Oil Company, Philip E Carroll is likely to be appointed to "oversee" post-war Iraqi oil production.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

War, supposedly to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction, gradually morphed into a crusade for regime change when not a whiff of WMD was found. Attempts by the UN Weapons Inspectorate to return to Iraq are currenlty being blocked by the US. During the war, US forces used weapons of mass destruction such as 2,000 lb bunker-buster bombs to level the flimsy homes of Baghdad. They also dropped thousands of cluster bombs which are now lying in yards and hanging in trees for Iraqi children to find. The Pentagon has said they have no plans for a clean-up operation of cluster bombs and Depleted Uranium shells. Napalm was also used by US forces near Basra.

WORLD MILITARY SPENDING IN 2000:	$839bn
ANNUAL COST OF UNIVERSAL PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:	$80bn
ANNUAL US MILITARY RESEARCH BUDGET:	$75bn
ANNUAL COST OF PROVIDING HEALTHCARE & NUTRITION FOR EVERYONE IN THE WORLD:	$15bn
1 MONTH CURRENT US MILITARY SPENDING:	$38bn
COST TO SAVE 11 MILLION LIVES WORLDWIDE FIGHTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES:	$38bn

US MILITARY OUT OF SHANNON

They tell us the war is over, but US Military Hercules planes are still refueling at Shannon every day. The Irish government was fully complicit in this illegal war. They handed our civilian airports at Shannon and Baldonnell to the US to use as military bases. Since January 1st, over 33,000 US troops have passed through Shannon and an extra 40,000 troops on their way to police the Iraqi occupation are currently passing through Shannon. Even the judge in the Ed Horgan case found the use of Shannon Airport by a belligerent power to be inconsistent with international law governing neutrality.

Shannon played a pivotal role in preparation for the war. Its location on the Western fringe of Europe means that military aircraft can carry less fuel (and consequently more troops or weapons) when crossing the Atlantic. With one of longest runways in Europe, Shannon is ideal for large military aircraft. While its isolated location makes it mush easier for the State to defend from peaceful protestors than airports in more built-up locations in Europe.

As changes are currently being made to the Freedom of Information Act, we may never know if the warplanes which bombed the Shu'ala market place or the Baghdad Maternity Hospital refuelled at Shannon. And, as the government has refused to inspect a single US military plane, we will never know how many of the 2,000lb bombs dropped on Iraqi homes passed through our airports. However, with our own army defending those planes we do know that Irish Neutrality is completely dead.

And while our leaders rushed to condemn peace activist Mary Kelly who disarmed one such plane, they refused to condemn warmongers Bush & Blair who hacked the limbs off Iraqi children in the name of liberation.

If Bertie Ahern or Brian Cowen dare to talk to us of peace-keeping or neutrality again, we should ask them about 12-year old Ali Ismail Abbas and how they can be sure that the weapons that murdered his family and stole his limbs were not transported through Irish airspace.

The Irish Anti-War Movement will continue to campaign for an end to the military use of Shannon. We are also calling for the dropping of all charges against anti-war protestors arrested in connection with Shannon Airport.

AFGHANISTAN

For Afghans, 'liberation' has meant rural warlords, harsh repression, widespread torture and Taliban-style policing of women. 2½ years since it began, there is no end in sight to the war with the recent killing by US troops of 11 civilians in Paktika.

Despite promises of aid, UN agencies have so far received just 8.4% of the money they need. While the US spent $4.5bn bombing Afghanistan, it offered just $300m for the first year of reconstruction and refused to make any commitment for subsequent years. The Taliban may have been temporarily ousted but there is no democracy in Afghanistan today. Women continue to wear the burqa and Women's Minister Sima Samar was sidelined as her views were seen as being 'too radical'. The likelihood of credible elections in 2004 is practically zero.

IRISH ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT: Why we are still marching

✗ Iraq has been invaded in a war of conquest not liberation. US forces are now shooting at Iraqis protesting against the occupation.
✗ The war is by no means over. Bombing continues every day and there is massive instability around Iraq
✗ Thousands of Iraqis have been killed. Millions more face misery without water, food and medicine
✗ The reasons for the war were given as the existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Not a single WMD has been found, even though many of the sites which were identified as containing them have been visited.
✗ US & UK forces showed their war aims by early on taking over the 600 oil wells. The reconstruction of Iraq will be carried out mainly by US companies. For instance, the massive US company Bechtel Inc. has the contract to rebuild the Iraqi infrastructure. Its top executive has close links to the White House.

STOP THE WAR - YOUR NEXT CHANCE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE TERROR OF BUSH & BLAIR

YES TO DEMOCRACY, NO TO WAR - JOIN THE PLANET TO PROTEST AT THE G8 SUMMIT, EVIAN, JUNE 1st

Our world is becoming an increasingly militarised zone, where millions are spent every day on weapons of mass destruction, while children continue to die from diarrhoea and starvation. Our next chance to protest at the horrible priorities of world leaders comes in June (1-3) when the G8 (the leaders of the world's most powerful nations) will meet in France to discuss the next phase of the 'war on terrorism' and the sell-off of Iraq. Each year, this meeting sets the political priorities for institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organistion and European Union.

This year, thousands of anti-war activists from across the planet will join with environmentalists, trade unionists and human rights activists to demand a world free of war, weapons, injustice & poverty. The Irish Anti-War Movement is backing this protest and will be sending a delegation along. For information on buses from Ireland contact 086 1523542.

Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing
- Arundhati Roy

EMERGENCY APPEAL: PLEASE HELP US RAISE €30,000

The Irish Anti-War Movement is the largest anti-war group in Ireland which brought 150,000 people onto the streets on February 15th to demonstrate against the war and our government's cowardly support for it. Despite the media lies, this war has not ended and we are committed to continuing our campaign. We now need to raise €30,000 to fund an anti-war office and a full-time administrator (at the moment we are run on an entirely voluntary basis). This is so that we can continue to organise major demonstrations, public meetings, debates and press conferences to highlight our opposition to the war. We must continue to campaign for an end to the use of Shannon by the US military and an end to Irish government support for the 'war on terrorism'. To do this, we need to produce thousands of leaflets and posters for upcoming events & get them into the hands of everyone in Ireland. You can help us by becoming an IAWM member or by donating regularly via standing order.

IAWM MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS

YOUR NAME: _____ TEL: _____
EMAIL: _____
ADDRESS: _____

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE IRISH ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT (MEMBERSHIP COSTS €10 OR €6 UNWAGED) ☐ I AM ALREADY A MEMBER PLEASE UPDATE MY SUBSCRIPTION

☐ I AGREE TO DONATE VIA STANDING ORDER AND WISH TO DONATE €_____ MONTHLY

PLEASE PAY TO: **BANK OF IRELAND, 34 COLLEGE GREEN., DUBLIN 2** ACCOUNT NUMBER: **39640902** SORT CODE: **90:07:89**
FOR THE CREDIT OF: **IRISH ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT**

THE AMOUNT OF € _____ (IN WORDS) _____ EUROS ON EACH _____ DAY
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NAME OF YOUR BANK: _____ BRANCH: _____
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PLEASE RETURN FORM TO: IRISH ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT, P.O. BOX 9260, DUBLIN 1 MAKE CHEQUES/P.O. PAYABLE TO: IRISH ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT